

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HISTORIC CONSERVATION BOARD

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2007

3:00 P.M., J. MARTIN GRIESEL ROOM, CENTENNIAL PLAZA II

The Historic Conservation Board met at 3:00 P.M., in the J. Martin Griesel Room, Centennial Plaza II, with members Senhauser, Spraul-Schmidt, Fisher, Wallace, Chatterjee and Young present. Absent: Kreider and Raser.

MINUTES

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of November 5, 2007 as amended (motion by Chatterjee, second by Young).

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS, 1243 ELM STREET, MUSIC HALL

[Mr. Senhauser recused himself from this item.]

Staff member Adrienne Cowden presented a report on the installation of a Mighty Wurlitzer Organ in Music Hall. The organ had originally stood in the Albee Theatre, but was relocated to the Emery Theater when the Albee was demolished in 1968. When the Emery Theater closed in 1999, the organ was disassembled and had been in storage ever since. The organ would now be restored, enlarged and installed in the second floor ballroom of Music Hall.

Ms. Cowden said that the organ would be installed at the west end of the ballroom and replace a smaller stage. A central chamber room containing the organ equipment would project an additional 18' into a room that is approximately 200' deep. An anteroom would be constructed on the north side of the stage to house the organ console and concert piano, each on platforms that could be wheeled out to the front of the new stage for performances. A storage room and vestibule would balance it on the south.

Ms. Cowden indicated that although substantial, the new stage and equipment rooms associated with the organ would have a minor impact on a large space that is approximately 18,000 square feet in area and that had been substantially altered within the last fifty years. Most recently, a 1998 remodeling included the installation of pilasters, columns, panels, mirrors and doors salvaged from the Albee Theatre. She said that given the prior alterations and size of the room, the ballroom would be an appropriate site for the Albee's Mighty Wurlitzer.

Project architect Michael Moose of Glaserworks was present to answer questions from the Board. Mr. Chatterjee asked whether the size and proportion of the ballroom was acoustically suited for the organ. Mr. Moose responded that the ballroom was one of the few spaces that could accommodate the installation; however, the noise generated from the organ would travel through the walls affecting performances elsewhere in the building.

BOARD ACTION

The Board voted unanimously (motion by Spraul-Schmidt, second by Chatterjee) to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of the Albee Theatre/Emery Theater Mighty Wurlitzer in the ballroom of Music Hall, as shown in the drawings presented to the Board at that meeting, finding that the proposed work meets the Cincinnati Music Hall Conservation Guidelines.

ADJOURN

As there were no other items to be considered by the Board, the meeting was (motion by Fisher, second by Chatterjee).

William L. Forwood
Urban Conservator

John C. Senhauser, Chairman

Date: _____